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Scott Hatfield
Plan and Zoning Commission

Meet Scott Hatfield, Chairman of the Board Emeritus, SVPA Architects Inc., family guy, and builder of community. He could also be the longest serving West Des Moines Plan and Zoning Commissioner. Thank you, Scott, for your tireless efforts on behalf of our City!

Is it true that you are the longest serving member of the Plan and Zoning Commission?

Scott: I don’t know if I am the longest serving Commissioner, but this is my 23rd year and I have four more years left on my current appointment.

As a long-time volunteer, how do you feel about your participation on the Plan and Zoning Commission?

It’s been an honor. I’ve met a lot of wonderful people and I feel that I have made a contribution to the great quality of life here in West Des Moines, the place I love.

Exactly what do you do as a Commissioner?

We review development proposals ensuring they meet our land use patterns and standards outlined in our Comprehensive Plan, zoning ordinances and regulations and then make our recommendation to the City Council.

What past or current Plan & Zoning Commission recommendation to the City Council has made the biggest impact on the growth of West Des Moines?

One of the most important decisions was supporting the freeway [I-235] being built through West Des Moines in the 1950s. It opened the door for growth – Valley West Mall followed by new office parks, restaurants, retail shops and multi-family zoning – and provided easy access. It also allowed earlier Plan and Zoning Commissions to identify land use for commercial development.

This resulted in a strong tax base that created a well-rounded community, but in a controlled way. West Des Moines now has the lowest tax rate than other surrounding communities. This growth all happened under the umbrella of the City’s planned growth plan.

Planned growth is the key to our success?

It’s one of the important factors to the City’s success. An important function of the Plan and Zoning Commission is developing and updating our City’s Comprehensive Plan for land use and zoning. Controlling growth provides a better place to live, work and play.

What qualifications are required to be on the Commission?

It’s helpful to have a background in architecture, landscape architecture, real estate development, state codes and law, land use and finances. But, the most important qualities are: Good, basic common sense, doing the homework and being unbiased. You also have to be willing to donate your time and take the job very seriously.

What do you do in your spare time?

My wife and I like to attend the Civic Center and spend time with our growing family. I do a lot of building projects for the family...and our own house!

What’s on your bucket list?

We’re planning a trip to Redwood National Park, driving down Highway 1 in California with our son, Nathan, and his girlfriend, Angel. I’d also like to read more and play more pickleball.

What’s your guilty pleasure?

Chocolate chip cookies and a cold Diet Coke.

